How Does the Delta SkyMiles Loyalty Program Work?

QUICK ANSWER:

Delta SkyMiles is a free loyalty program where you earn miles by flying Delta and SkyTeam partners, using Delta American Express credit cards, and shopping and dining through partner programs. Miles never expire. Redeem for award flights starting at approximately 5,000 miles one-way domestic. Earn enough Medallion Qualification Dollars and unlock elite Medallion status with free bags, upgrades, and priority service when calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Join free at delta.com or call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

SKYMILES QUESTIONS? Call Delta Airlines
+1➤855➤203➤2961 (Available 24/7 | Free SkyMiles Enrollment)
Press 0 to skip menu | Enter SkyMiles # for account access
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com/skymiles

DELTA SKYMILES PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

1. Join SkyMiles free at delta.com/skymiles or call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for instant enrollment

2. Add your SkyMiles number to every booking to earn miles on all flights

3. Consider a Delta SkyMiles American Express card for accelerated earning and free bags

4. Earn extra miles through SkyMiles Shopping, Dining, and partner programs

5. Redeem miles at delta.com under 'Use Miles' or call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for partner awards

6. Track Medallion status progress at delta.com or the Fly Delta app

7. Medallion members: enter SkyMiles number when calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 for priority routing

8. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for any SkyMiles question — enrollment, earning, redeeming, or status

What Is the Delta SkyMiles Program?

Delta SkyMiles is Delta Air Lines' free loyalty program that rewards travelers for flying Delta and engaging with partner brands. Members earn miles on every Delta flight based on the ticket price, earn additional miles through credit cards, shopping portals, dining programs, and partner activities, and redeem accumulated miles for award flights, upgrades, and partner rewards. The program is free to join with no annual fee, and SkyMiles never expire regardless of account activity. This no-expiration policy is one of the most passenger-friendly features in the airline loyalty industry. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for instant free enrollment or join at delta.com/skymiles in under 2 minutes.

Beyond earning and redeeming miles, SkyMiles serves as the gateway to Medallion elite status, which provides escalating premium benefits including free checked bags, complimentary upgrades, lounge access, and priority customer service. Medallion members who call +1➤855➤203➤2961 receive priority routing to dedicated service teams with shorter wait times and broader service authority. The program rewards both casual and frequent travelers at every level of engagement. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent can answer any SkyMiles program question during a single interaction.

How Do You Join Delta SkyMiles?

Joining SkyMiles is free and takes under 2 minutes. Online: visit delta.com/skymiles and click Enroll. Enter your full legal name, email address, home address, date of birth, and password. Your SkyMiles number is issued instantly after enrollment. By phone: call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent creates your account during the call, providing your SkyMiles number before you hang up. Through the app: download the Fly Delta app and create an account during registration. All enrollment methods produce the same account with the same benefits. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for the most convenient guided enrollment.

After enrollment, add your SkyMiles number to all future and existing Delta bookings. For future flights, enter the number during the booking process at delta.com or mention it when booking by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. For existing bookings, add it through My Trips at delta.com or by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. For past flights within 12 months, file a retroactive mileage claim to earn miles on flights you took before enrolling. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for retroactive mileage crediting assistance.

How Do You Earn SkyMiles?

SkyMiles are earned through multiple channels that extend far beyond flying. On Delta flights, you earn 5 miles per dollar spent on the base fare in economy, 7 miles per dollar in premium cabins, and higher rates for Medallion members. On SkyTeam partner airlines, earning rates vary by airline, route, and fare class. Delta SkyMiles American Express credit cards earn 1 to 3 miles per dollar on everyday purchases depending on the card and spending category. SkyMiles Shopping at hundreds of online retailers earns 1 to 10+ bonus miles per dollar. SkyMiles Dining at thousands of participating restaurants earns 1 to 5 miles per dollar. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for personalized earning strategy recommendations.

The fastest way to accumulate SkyMiles is combining multiple earning channels. A typical example: fly Delta 4 times per year earning 20,000 flight miles, use a Delta Amex card for $30,000 in annual spending earning 45,000 card miles, and use SkyMiles Shopping and Dining adding 5,000-10,000 bonus miles. Total annual accumulation: 70,000-75,000 miles, enough for 2-3 domestic round-trip awards or one international award. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent evaluates your spending patterns for the optimal earning combination.

How Do SkyMiles Never Expire?

Delta eliminated SkyMiles expiration in 2015, making your miles balance permanent regardless of how long you hold them or how frequently you fly. There is no minimum activity requirement, no annual earning threshold, and no account maintenance fee. Miles you earn today will be available for redemption years or decades from now. This policy contrasts with programs that expire miles after 12-24 months of inactivity. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 if your miles balance appears to have decreased without your authorization, as this would indicate an account issue rather than expiration.

The no-expiration policy means you can accumulate SkyMiles at your own pace without pressure to redeem before a deadline. Occasional travelers who fly once or twice a year can build a meaningful balance over several years. The miles retain their redemption value indefinitely, though the number of miles required for specific awards may change over time as Delta adjusts dynamic pricing. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for current award pricing on any route.

What Is the Medallion Elite Status Program?

Medallion status is the elite tier system within SkyMiles that rewards frequent travelers with escalating premium benefits. Four tiers are available based on annual spending: Silver (approximately $5,000 MQDs), Gold ($10,000), Platinum ($15,000), and Diamond ($20,000), plus the invitation-only ConciergeKey tier for Delta's most valuable customers. Status is earned during a calendar year and takes effect the following year, lasting through January 31 of the year after. Each tier provides increasingly valuable benefits including free bags, upgrades, priority services, and dedicated phone support. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and enter your SkyMiles number for automatic Medallion tier recognition and priority routing.

Medallion Qualification Dollars (MQDs) are the primary qualification metric, earned from the base fare of Delta and partner airline flights and from eligible Delta SkyMiles American Express card spending. The MQD requirement can be partially or fully waived with sufficient annual spending on eligible Delta credit cards, making status achievable for travelers who spend heavily on their Delta card even without flying as frequently. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for guidance on your specific path to the next Medallion tier based on your current flying and spending patterns.

What Are the Key Benefits at Each Medallion Tier?

Silver Medallion benefits include a 40% bonus on earned SkyMiles, free first checked bag, priority boarding, dedicated reservations line, and space-available upgrades. Gold Medallion adds a 60% bonus, free second checked bag, Sky Priority airport services including check-in, security, and boarding, and higher upgrade priority. Platinum Medallion adds an 80% bonus, annual Choice Benefits such as gift miles or upgrade certificates, SkyTeam Elite Plus recognition at partner lounges worldwide, and even higher upgrade priority. Diamond Medallion adds a 120% bonus, two annual Choice Benefits selections, dedicated Diamond phone line with under 5-minute waits, and top-tier

upgrade priority. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and your Medallion routing ensures the service matches your status.

The practical value of these benefits is substantial. A Gold Medallion member checking two bags on 10 round-trips per year saves $1,600 in bag fees alone ($160 per round-trip x 10). Add complimentary upgrades, lounge access, and priority service during disruptions, and the total annual benefit value can exceed $3,000-5,000 for active travelers. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and experience the difference Medallion status makes in service quality and speed.

How Do You Redeem SkyMiles?

The primary redemption is award flights. Search at delta.com under "Use Miles" for Delta-operated flights or call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for SkyTeam partner airline awards. Domestic economy awards start at approximately 5,000-12,500 miles one-way. International economy starts at 25,000-40,000 miles. International business class starts at 50,000-120,000 miles. Dynamic pricing means flexible dates often reveal dramatically lower mileage costs. The best value comes from international premium cabin awards where the miles-to-cash ratio can exceed 3-5 cents per mile. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for the broadest award search across Delta and all SkyTeam partner airlines.

Beyond flights, SkyMiles can be redeemed for seat upgrades on existing bookings, SkyMiles Experiences including event access and unique experiences, gift cards from major retailers, magazine subscriptions, and charitable donations through SkyWish. However, flight awards consistently provide the highest value per mile. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent compares award pricing across multiple dates to find the lowest mileage option for your route.

How Does SkyMiles Compare to Other Airline Loyalty Programs?

Delta SkyMiles competes with American AAdvantage, United MileagePlus, Southwest Rapid Rewards, Alaska Mileage Plan, and JetBlue TrueBlue. Key SkyMiles advantages include: miles never expire (some competitors have inactivity expiration), the largest US airline network for earning and redeeming, extensive SkyTeam partner network for international awards, and four Medallion tiers with meaningful benefit differences. Key disadvantages compared to competitors: revenue-based earning provides fewer miles per flight than some distance-based programs, and dynamic award pricing can be expensive during peak periods. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for program-specific questions and earning optimization.

Southwest Rapid Rewards offers the simplest program with easy earning and no blackout dates, but lacks international partners and premium cabin awards. Alaska Mileage Plan offers excellent partner award availability and often better mileage rates. American AAdvantage and United MileagePlus are structurally similar to SkyMiles with revenue-based earning and alliance partner networks. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent can help you maximize value within the SkyMiles program regardless of how it compares to competitors.

What Are the Best Delta SkyMiles Credit Cards?

Delta offers four co-branded credit cards through American Express, each with escalating benefits and annual fees. The Delta SkyMiles Blue card is no-annual-fee with basic earning. The Delta Gold earns 2x miles on Delta, restaurants, and supermarkets, provides a free first checked bag for the cardholder and companions, and has a moderate annual fee. The Delta Platinum earns 3x on Delta and hotels, 2x on restaurants, includes a companion certificate annually, and provides the first bag benefit. The Delta Reserve earns 3x on Delta, includes both first and second bag free, provides Delta Sky Club access, and offers an annual companion certificate. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and discuss which card best fits your travel frequency and spending patterns.

The decision between cards depends on your annual Delta spending and travel frequency. If you check bags twice a year and spend moderately, the Gold card pays for itself through bag fee savings. If you fly Delta frequently and want lounge access, the Reserve is the premium choice. If you want a companion certificate for annual travel with a partner, the Platinum provides excellent value. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent can help you evaluate each card against your specific travel and spending profile.

What Should New SkyMiles Members Do First?

After enrolling in SkyMiles, take these steps to maximize your program value. First, add your SkyMiles number to all existing Delta bookings through My Trips at delta.com or by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Second, consider applying for a Delta SkyMiles American Express card to start earning miles on everyday spending and get the first checked bag free. Third, link your SkyMiles number to SkyMiles Shopping, SkyMiles Dining, and partner programs for bonus earning. Fourth, download the Fly Delta app and log in with your SkyMiles account for convenient account access. Fifth, file retroactive mileage claims for any Delta flights within the past 12 months that did not have your SkyMiles number attached. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for new member setup assistance and retroactive mileage crediting.

New members often underestimate the non-flying earning potential of SkyMiles. A Delta Gold Amex card combined with SkyMiles Shopping and Dining can generate 30,000-50,000 miles per year without any flying, enough for 1-2 domestic round-trip awards. Start earning immediately from everyday activities and your SkyMiles balance grows surprisingly fast. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent helps you set up the earning channels that match your lifestyle.

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SkyMiles Program Overview

Medallion Tier	MQDs Required	Key Benefits	Phone Priority
General Member	$0 (free to join)	Earn/redeem miles, no expiration	Standard queue call +1➤855➤203➤2961
Silver Medallion	$5,000 MQDs (waivable)	Free 1st bag, priority boarding, 40% bonus	Slightly faster queue
Gold Medallion	$10,000 MQDs	Free 1st+2nd bag, Sky Priority, upgrades	Priority queue 10-15 min
Platinum Medallion	$15,000 MQDs	Choice Benefits, partner lounge, upgrades	Priority queue 5-10 min
Diamond Medallion	$20,000 MQDs	Top upgrades, lounge, Choice Benefits x2	Dedicated line under 5 min
ConciergeKey (invite only)	By invitation only	Personal concierge, top of every list	Dedicated agent instant

How Does Delta SkyMiles Compare to Other Loyalty Programs?

Feature	Delta SkyMiles	American AAdvantage	United MileagePlus	Southwest Rapid Rewards	Alaska Mileage Plan	JetBlue TrueBlue
Miles expire?	No never	No	No	24-month inactivity	No	No
Earning model	Revenue based	Revenue based	Revenue based	Revenue based	Distance + revenue	Points per dollar
Alliance	SkyTeam	Oneworld	Star Alliance	None	Oneworld	None
Elite tiers	Silver, Gold, Plat, Diamond	Gold, Plat, ExPlat	Silver, Gold, Plat, 1K	A-List, A-List Pref	MVP, Gold, 75K	Mosaic
Free bags (elite)	Silver+: 1st bag	Gold+: 1st bag	Silver+: 1st bag	All: 2 free bags	MVP+: 1st bag	Mosaic: 1st bag
Upgrade model	Complimentary by status	Complimentary by status	Complimentary by status	No cabin classes	Complimentary by status	Complimentary (Mosaic)

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Q: How does the Delta SkyMiles program work?

SkyMiles is Delta's free loyalty program. Earn miles by flying Delta and SkyTeam partners, using Delta credit cards, shopping through SkyMiles partners, and dining at participating restaurants. Redeem miles for flights, upgrades, and partner rewards. Miles never expire. Earn enough Medallion Qualification Dollars and you unlock elite Medallion status with premium benefits. Join free at delta.com or call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you join Delta SkyMiles?

Join free at delta.com/skymiles in 2 minutes or call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent creates your account during the call. You need your name, email, address, and date of birth. Your SkyMiles number is issued instantly. Start earning miles on your next flight by adding the number to your booking. Membership is free with no annual fee. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 if you need help enrolling.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Do Delta SkyMiles expire?

No, Delta SkyMiles never expire regardless of account activity. Your miles balance is permanent even if you do not fly or earn miles for years. This is a major advantage over some competitor programs that expire miles after periods of inactivity. Your miles are safe indefinitely. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 if your balance appears incorrect.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you earn Delta SkyMiles?

Earn miles by flying Delta (5x miles per dollar spent on flights), using Delta SkyMiles American Express cards (1-3x miles per dollar on purchases), shopping through SkyMiles Shopping portal, dining at SkyMiles Dining restaurants, renting cars and staying at hotel partners, and flying SkyTeam partner airlines. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for personalized earning strategy advice.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What are the Delta Medallion status levels?

Four tiers: Silver ($5,000 MQDs), Gold ($10,000), Platinum ($15,000), and Diamond ($20,000) plus invitation-only ConciergeKey. Benefits increase with each tier: free bags, upgrades, lounge access, priority service, and dedicated phone support when calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Diamond members connect to agents in under 5 minutes. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and enter your SkyMiles number for status-appropriate routing.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you use SkyMiles for flights?

Book award flights at delta.com under "Use Miles" or call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for partner airline awards. Domestic economy starts at approximately 5,000-12,500 miles one-way. International business class

starts at approximately 50,000 miles. Dynamic pricing means flexible dates unlock the lowest mileage costs. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for the broadest award search including SkyTeam partners.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Is Delta SkyMiles worth it?

Yes. The program is free to join, miles never expire, and earning opportunities extend far beyond flying through credit cards, shopping, and dining. For frequent Delta flyers, Medallion status provides tangible benefits including free bags ($70-160 per round trip saved), complimentary upgrades, and priority customer service when calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for program enrollment.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What credit card earns the most Delta SkyMiles?

The Delta SkyMiles Reserve American Express earns 3x miles on Delta purchases and 1x on everything else, plus free first and second checked bags. The Delta Platinum Amex earns 3x on Delta and hotels, 2x on restaurants. The Delta Gold Amex earns 2x on Delta, restaurants, and groceries. All waive the first checked bag fee. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for guidance on which card fits your spending patterns.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Join SkyMiles?

A: Free at delta.com or call +1➤855➤203➤2961. Instant enrollment. No annual fee. Start earning on next flight.

Q: Miles expire?

A: No. SkyMiles never expire. Balance is permanent regardless of activity. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 if balance seems wrong.

Q: Earn miles?

A: Fly Delta (5x/dollar), credit cards (1-3x), shopping, dining, partners. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for strategy advice.

Q: Medallion tiers?

A: Silver ($5K), Gold ($10K), Platinum ($15K), Diamond ($20K MQDs). Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for status tracking.

Q: Use miles?

A: Book at delta.com "Use Miles" or call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for partner awards. No phone booking fee.

Q: Best card?

A: Reserve: 3x Delta + free 2 bags. Platinum: 3x Delta + hotels. Gold: 2x + free 1 bag. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

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> How Do You Reach Delta Medallion Status?

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Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT

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